GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2812
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
Pending RTI Applications
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of RTI applications pending presently department-wise;
(b) the number of departments where Information and Facilitation Centre has been set up; and
(c) the details of recommendations of the expert committee that have been accepted by the Government?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a)& (b): The data regarding number of RTI applications pending department-wise and the number of Departments having Facilitation Centres, is not centrally maintained.

(c): The following recommendations of the expert committee consisting of Shri A.N. Tiwari, former Chief Information Commissioner and Dr. M.M. Ansari, Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission have been accepted by the government:

1. All the details of the public authority may be uploaded on its website. Access to information should be made user-friendly for which appropriate information technology infrastructure should be suitably designed, developed and operationalised.
2. All the training modules for professional upgradation of employees should incorporate matter relating to the virtues of transparency and open government and RTI law.
3. In order to minimise the burden of servicing RTI applications, the public authorities with high public dealings should put in place an effective system to redress the grievances of affected persons. At the sub-organisational levels, there should be cooperation and coordination between the Central Public Information Officers and the officers responsible for addressing public grievances.
4. In order to reduce the number of RTI applications relating to service matters, the information relating to recruitment, promotion and transfers should be brought into public domain promptly.
Contdâ€¦2/-

5. The retention and maintenance of specific documents for specified duration should be clearly spelt by each public authority in respect of its documents.
6. The Public Authorities shall constitute Consultative Committees consisting of office bearers of key stakeholder, association on rotational basis to have a systematic and regular interaction between the officials of the Public Authorities to advice what information to be uploaded as suo motu.
7. "Information and Facilitation Centres" (IFCs) may be set up in each public authority, where public dealing is involved to educate the citizens about the information / documents available on the website of the department concerned and to provide printed publications to the citizens the categories of information that are frequently being sought under the RTI Act and provide copies of information as per RTI Rules, 2012.
8. In each public authority, a committee of PIOs and FAAs with rich experience of dealing with RTI applications and appeals is set up to identify the categories of information that are frequently asked by applicants. Such information must be disclosed in the public domain to make it more user friendly and should also be reviewed at regular intervals.
9. Information that is proactively disclosed must be properly categorized and organised in such a manner that it facilitates easy retrieval. Information on the website must be organised in a searchable and retrievable database to enable people to access the records. The Nodal Officer of each Public authority be made responsible for this.
10. Web site, and other medium and publication of each public authority, relating to Section 4 compliance must carry the date (where appropriate for each bit of information) on which the information was uploaded/printed.
11. The task of undertaking transparency audits may be given to the respective Training Institutes under each Ministry/Department/Public Authority and across the States and Union Territories.

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